

# Labor Resources for Pickens, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

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This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Pickens, South Carolina. Pickens is located in Pickens County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Pickens.

## Labor Situation at a Glance in Pickens, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	188,287	457,222	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	122,340	287,814	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	6,216	14,701	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	5.1%	6.5%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	341	1,223	22,196
Average Wages	Pickens County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$616	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Pickens, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	122,340	287,814	2,046,179
Change since 2000	28,160	63,010	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	188,287	457,222	4,198,068
Change since 2000	17,103	29,751	186,056
Projected 2010	411,615	713,765	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	91,123	221,298	2,040,261
Female	97,164	235,925	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	45,744	100,425	875,330
Ages 35-49	41,151	102,006	925,330
Ages 50-64	32,287	80,125	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	98,929	232,111	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	47,180	122,286	778,054
Some College	39,139	90,696	500,194
Associate Degree	14,039	33,213	173,428
Bachelors Degree	35,113	77,974	351,526
Post Bachelor	18,662	38,718	178,529

*\*Prime working age group:*  
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

## Employment Characteristics for Pickens, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	116,124	273,113	1,906,571

*Total Employment* data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Pickens County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>10,574</b>	<b>18,256</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>18,921</b>	<b>43,524</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	249	604	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	526	1,184	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing			6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	2,276	4,375	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	1,492	4,123	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	201	802	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	798	1,244	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	1,607	3,803	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	312	769	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	714	1,065	7,846
Food manufacturing	967	1,620	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	1,310	4,015	40,207
Textile product mills	340	1,303	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	186	378	5,321
Paper manufacturing	1,357	1,908	14,710
Printing and related support activities	912	1,432	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	1,990	3,968	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	1,437	5,653	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>7,344</b>	<b>12,941</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>26,185</b>	<b>44,747</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>3,208</b>	<b>8,282</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>51,507</b>	<b>77,063</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>20,253</b>	<b>33,403</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>29,410</b>	<b>48,723</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In <i>Pickens County</i>				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
OWT Industries	Pickens	Gas trimmers	1,500	1939
Mark IV Automotive	Easley	Power steering assemblies	405	1980
Central Textiles Inc	Central	Greige goods	400	1984
Honeywell	Central	Nylon 6 polymer	391	2002
Alice Mfg Co-Foster Plt	Easley	Cotton-polyester broad cloth	380	1959
Alice Mfg Co-Elljean Plt	Easley	Cotton-polyester print cloth	331	1954
Alice Mfg Co-Ellison Plt	Easley	Cotton-polyester print cloth	303	1965
Sauer Danfoss	Easley	Hydraulic valves	300	1979
Champion Aerospace Inc	Liberty	Aviation ignition systems	285	1987
WaterMark Inc	Easley	Rotational molded kayaks	260	1976
Cornell Dubilier Marketing Co	Liberty	Mica capacitors	215	1987
Liberty Denim	Liberty	Denim	198	2002
Richmond Gear	Liberty	Transmissions	185	1964
McKechnie Plastic Components	Easley	Thermoplastic injection molding	180	1969
St Jude Medical Inc	Pickens	Capacitors -medical	169	1996
Imperial Die Casting Corp	Liberty	Aluminum die castings	162	1966
Ortec Inc	Easley	Specialty polymers	130	1980
Kent Mfg Co-Runnymede Plt	Pickens	Worsted yarns	100	1954
Computer Software Innovation	Easley	Customized software applications	74	1989
Sulzer Process Pumps(US) Inc	Easley	Industrial pumps	69	1989

## Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

## Availability of Labor

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### Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	122,340	287,814	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	28,160	63,010	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	65%	63%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	6,216	14,701	139,607
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	6.5%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

*Unemployment* reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

### Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	341	1,223	22,196
Manufacturing	240	951	19,196
Distribution	12	48	1,213
Service	88	224	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	28,269	50,994	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

## Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

<b>Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Pickens County, SC</b>	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	472
Data Processing Technology	286
Engineering Technologies (Total)	365
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	47
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	19
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	762
Industrial Electronics	22
HVAC	188
Precision Production (Total)	228
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	75

<b>Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees</b>		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

## Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Pickens County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$616	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$32,058	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

\*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

\*\* Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Pickens County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$42,255	\$39,027
Wood product	\$33,459	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$35,563	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$38,567	\$37,533
Machinery	\$37,689	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	\$55,512	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$45,697	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$29,971	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$33,073	\$34,350
Food	\$33,612	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$37,130	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$20,100	\$25,618
Apparel	\$26,233	\$23,705
Paper	\$49,210	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$34,771	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$57,890	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In Pickens and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Pickens County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$8.08	\$10.57	\$13.01
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$9.58	\$11.08	\$12.70
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$10.85	\$11.32	\$12.89
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$8.28	\$11.70	\$15.02
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.96	\$16.27	\$20.04
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$13.87	\$15.08	\$16.77
Industrial Machinery Mechanics			
Machinists	\$12.90	\$14.76	\$16.85
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.15	\$11.40	\$13.19
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$9.84	\$11.23	\$12.72
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.62	\$8.36	\$9.99
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.07	\$10.18	\$11.25
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.83	\$15.17	\$16.92
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$11.45	\$13.55	\$15.62
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$9.77	\$11.63	\$13.47
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Pickens County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$56,700	\$66,320	\$72,380
Computer Programmers	\$33,520	\$45,000	\$56,540
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$30,860	\$40,700	\$49,220
Industrial Engineers	\$48,120	\$57,880	\$67,880
Mechanical Engineers	\$44,049	\$49,640	\$56,520

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available